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■ NIAGARA ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARDS: Two Port Colborne men nominated

## Leaders in their fields

KAESHA FORAND  
 InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Two Port Colborne businesses leaders are among nominees for Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year awards.

But they're not average businesses. Both are leading the way in their respective fields, creating new and innovative products to make construction easier, and our environment

healthier.

Peter Vieveen has helped simplify flagman services at construction sites while Wayne Elliot is a leader in waste and resource recycling.

Vieveen is the president of North America Traffic, the world leader in sales and rentals of portable traffic control devices. In 1994, he invented the remote controlled flagman.

It can cost about \$45 per hour to hire a unionized flagman, however, the risk of fatal workplace accidents is high.

The civil engineer worked as an estimator in construction for 20 years. He wanted to create a device to eliminate the need for flagger jobs, so he invented the flagman in his garage.

"It was a great success," he said. "The business grew from there and we now employ 20 people."

The flagman has the potential to completely eliminate or reduce the need for flaggers on a work site. A flagger can operate a stop/slow sign and — through a remote control — control the flagman, which features a traffic light to control traffic.

Vieveen's business is located in a 1,115 square-metre building on Petersburg Cres. where the flagman is manufactured in batches of 12, marketed and sold.



Staff Photo

Peter Vieveen, president of North America Traffic stands by an intersection traffic light being shipped to Whitehorse. Vieveen is one of two Port Colborne businessmen nominated for Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Awards.

See ENTREPRENEURS | Page 2

See Inside: **PUPP'S INSERTS**  
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## ■ PORTRAITS

# On the same page with family literacy

InPort News Staff

A number of Family Literacy Day events were held throughout the city on Wednesday, Jan. 27. The annual event is held across Canada and helps promote literacy — which doesn't always have to come through reading. Singing, following recipes, taking a trip to the library and after-school activities can all help promote literacy. Although schools throughout Port Colborne and Wainfleet held events, here's a look at a few of them:



The Ontario Early Years Centre held activities surrounding the book *Five Little Monkeys* where more than 25 families took part in monkey and alligator themed activities.

Left: Cathy VanderVeen helps Brianna VanderVeen, Briar Tiiman and Sophia Pirson complete a crocodile craft at the Ontario Early Years Centre.

Right: Betty VanDyk helps her four-year-old daughter Clara make monkey ears



See PORTRAITS | Page 3

## ■ ENTREPRENEURS

## Two local business leaders nominated for awards



Wayne Elliot

## FROM PAGE 1

Throughout the years, the flagman has evolved from a yellow and red light system to a full light system powered by solar panels.

"They're all solar powered and use highly efficient LED lights," he said. "LED technology has increased over the last few years. They're extremely bright, have low power consumption and the solar panel life expectancy is 20 years."

The systems are easy to assemble. They contain a wireless radio com-

munication link to link with a radio remote override, an onboard computer and traffic sensors.

Vieveen said the company sells its product across North America and has completed a \$250,000 contract with the U.S. military. North America Traffic has also provided equipment to the U.S. Marines and the army, and shipped products as far away as Hawaii, Alaska, and Bermuda.

Their next project is to provide a solar-powered traffic intersection in the Maldives using four solar panels

and a bank of batteries.

Business has increased about 500% throughout the last four years by expanding their market and increasing the product line to eight models.

"Our market in Canada is very small."

Vieveen is excited about his entrepreneur of the year nomination in the international trade category and said a win would help show customers the quality business they're dealing with.

Wayne Elliot and his team at Raw

Materials Company, a division of International Marine Salvage Inc., call themselves environmentalists. He founded RMC to reflect a commitment to a safer environment through recycling and conservation of waste.

"We're environmentalists. We follow science and believe in science."

It pains him to know there are millions of pounds of batteries leaching in municipal landfills when Port Colborne has the capability to recycle them.

See ENTREPRENEURS | Page 16

# Got Back Pain?

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## ■ PORTRAITS

# Opening doors by opening books

FROM PAGE 2



Pictured left: McKay Elementary School not only focused on special story time, but held a dinner, book sale, and filled the gymnasium with displays promoting local agencies and literacy. McKay Elementary School also held a book sale where Maggie Clarke, Hailey Payne, Sophie Clarke and Aaren Read browsed through a wide variety of used books.



Above: McKay students' story time delved into the First Nations world with two different readings for younger and older students. Earl Dionne read traditional aboriginal stories which revolve around nature and stories passed on from generation to generation.



Students at DeWitt Carter Elementary School took public transit to the Port Colborne Public Library. They learned how to check out books from the library and enjoyed story time. Each student borrowed books, and received a free book and a book bag to keep. Stacey Hol of the Port Colborne Public Library checks out books for Tyler Pires while his father Rick look son.

# INPORT NEWS

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## ■ ourview

## Celebrating our local business treasures

Port Colborne is a gem. It has a unique landscape, cute shopping avenues and is a portal to the Welland Canal.

Its businesses are also unique and two of them have recently been brought to light.

North America Traffic and International Marine Salvage Inc. are names you hear often however, they're leading their fields in portable technology and recycling.

International Marine Salvage, a division of Raw Materials America, recycles batteries — toxic tubes of chemicals that are powering all our gizmos and gadgets.

Many people probably don't think about the effect batteries have on the environment when they throw them away.

One way to avoid their contamination of landfills is by recycling them. Businesses who use a large amount of batteries might consider purchasing two- and five-kilogram pails from International Marine. Once they are filled, they are picked up by their entire contents are recycled.

Residents can also visit their local landfill and recycle batteries in designated areas which are then recycled at RMC.

Another option is to use rechargeable batteries. Popular brands such as Duracell and Energizer make AA and AAA rechargeable nickel-nickel hydride (NiMH) batteries which perform well in electronic devices. They cost about \$20 for four and a charger and will last at least a year or two. They can be used for thermostats, remote controls, cameras and toys. They not only help save the environment, but also save you money.

The Elliott family should be commended for the efforts they are undertaking to recycle batteries, boats, light bulbs and electronic waste.

To top it all off, according to their website, for every 1 million lbs. of waste diverted from landfills through RMC, a tree will be donated to the Port Colborne parks and recreation department.

Now that is a class act.

As for North America Traffic, the idea of a remote-controlled flag man was born from Peter Viewen's garage. His creation has helped reduce the need for flag men at work sites and the risk of flag man injuries. He has not only saved construction companies jobs, he could have saved lives.

Although there are a number of quality and original businesses in Port Colborne and Wainfleet, we applaud these two and wish them the best of luck at the Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Award ceremony at the end of February.

## ■ BUSINESS AFTER 5



KAESHA FORAND Staff Photos

Ten Thousand Villages hosted a Business After 5 event on Wednesday in Port Colborne. Store manager Jane Nivres fair trade coffee to chamber president Mike Sloat in front of an exhibit of Haitian fair trade art. The store offers quality handmade household items, food, and personal care products while providing farmers and artisans with fair pay for their products.

## readers' views

## Your vote can make a difference

Wow! I think the ratenay's offer was a wonderful idea. I received a little orange brochure in my mailbox the other day titled You Belong in Wainfleet. Yes I do, and I welcome anyone and everyone to share in the same experience as long as they leave the city where it belongs and adapt to our rural way of life — surviving regular power outages, lack of pizza delivery, etc.

I was very taken with the vision statement and can sum it up for those who missed it as believing that we can maintain our rural character and work together to have potable water through innovation and education. And really, why can't we?

There was also mention of the upcoming election Oct. 25 and the flip of whether it be municipal, provincial or federal. I used to share that same opinion. That is, until I started to take an interest and became more engaged. I now have a different view of many issues. I believe everyone's vote, opinion, voice, editorial, flyer, etc., makes a difference —

Although I have always taken the time to vote, whether it be municipal, provincial or federal, I used to share that same opinion. That is, until I started to take an interest and became more engaged. I now have a different view of many issues. I believe everyone's vote, opinion, voice, editorial, flyer, etc., makes a difference —

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## ■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

## Remember the future

DR. JACK NEIL  
First Presbyterian Church

You might ask, "What do you mean, remembering the future?" How can one remember what hasn't happened? Our memories are always about past events. A psychic might, in a sense, remember the future before the future unfolds to regular people, but this kind of remembering doesn't happen to you and me.

Cavin Flood, in his book *The Aesthetic Self: Subjectivity, Memory and Tradition*, posits a kind of remembrance of the future. This remembering has to do with recalling the original goals which some philosophy or religion had for its future and then, because of our remembering, working toward these goals.

Let's look at this idea from within a specifically Christian context. When a Christian attempts to remember the future, there exists at once a connection between the historical Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God as a believer's end-point or goal.

Looking back to the specifics of the Christian traditions and immersing our selves in these traditions becomes a skillful way of proceeding toward the Kingdom of God, our proper end. Christian tradition becomes transformational. Through remembering Christian tradition we engage upon the process of self and divine discovery called conversion.

What does this remembering of Christian tradition do? It takes us back closer to the original goal of Christian faith. It is a way of transforming the historical world into some sort of order having an end-point and a goal (the kingdom of God).

When we practice our Christian tradition (whatever the specificities might be), we internalize the tradition. We learn the tradition, we practice it, and we learn it. This tradition begins to seep into our pores and we become it and it becomes us. By remembering, we get back to the primary vision of our faith and we are urged toward the original goal.

When Christians perform the memory of our tradition we internalize the wisdom and spirituality of scripture, and the teaching of the church. Professor Flood says we externalize the divine into our bodily living. The initiation of Christ development in our selves is a divine interiority. We become changed persons having caught sight of our future goal and having realized how to attain that goal.

The Danish philosopher-theologian Søren Kierkegaard believed the Christians' future goal was to develop purity of heart, i.e., an detachment from the worldly and a growing awareness of our life in Jesus the Christ.

To think this would be a useful goal for us all.

April Jeffs, Wainfleet



■ **HELP FOR HAITI**

**KAESHA FORAND** Staff Photo  
Clarke Fretz, regional representative for the Monmonette Central Committee, makes a donation in the Port Thrift donation box. More than \$300 has already been donated from the store to provide assistance to Haitians, adding to Ontario's total of \$800,000 and \$3 million already collected in North America. People wishing to help can donate cash or items to create aid response kits — which contain four bars of bath soap, shampoo, four bars of laundry soap, four new bath towels, toothpaste, four toothbrushes, two combs, 40 bandages, nail clippers and sanitary pads. Detailed lists can be picked up at the store. Port Thrift on Clarence St. is also a drop off location for donated items, in addition to new bedding. For more information on the work MCC does in Haiti, visit [www.mcc.org](http://www.mcc.org).

■ **localbrief****COUNCIL WAIVES FEES FOR THE JERICHO HOUSE PLAN REVIEW**

**WAINFLEET** — The Jericho House has taken one more important step towards becoming a reality.

During Tuesday night's meeting, council waived the requirements for a site plan review and fees associated with the review for the 17-acre parcel of land on Rathdon Rd. The youth leadership, justice and spirituality centre is well in the works for the past 10 years.

—Tribune Staff

■ **localbrief****TRAFFIC CONCERNS PICK UP SPEED**

**PORT COLBORNE** — Chippawa Rd. residents are opposing plans for 19 single-family homes west of Hubbard Dr.

Residents who attended a Jan. 11 council meeting cited safety as a chief concern, saying the development of Chippawa Estates will compound traffic problems that have resulted in 18 collisions on Chippawa Rd. in the past decade.

Melissa Bigford is one resident who feels adding more traffic in the area could put pedestrians at risk.

"This is a very important issue that affects the life of the neighbourhood," Bigford said. "(The subdivision) should be denied."

She said Chippawa Rd. is used as a shortcut by local traffic trying to access Hwy. 140 from Main St. E.

"The Berkeley (Ave.) stop sign is a rolling stop at best," Bigford said.

She said the road is in rough shape and there are no side-walks in the plan of subdivision.

"This is not in the best interest of the neighbourhood or the community as a whole," she said. "Do not look at this development as a way to increase the tax base."

Ward 2 Coun. Frank DiBartolomeo said Chippawa Rd. is narrow and has much traffic travelling at high speeds.

Residents expressed concern about a treatment pond to deal with storm water.

"The pond is going to be the size of our swimming pool," Jerry Guillard said. "It is going to be 150 feet from my front door."

Only planner Don Aquilina said there are "no environmental red flags on the property," in responding to a question posed by Mayor Vince Badiway.

Chippawa Rd. resident Roseanne Shields expressed concern about housing density and whether there would be blasting for the basements.

The property requires a zoning bylaw amendment.

—Mark Tyndal, InPort News Staff

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■ **CONTEST:** Submissions welcome from photographers of all ages

## Winter photo contest runs until March 15

InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — With the snow falling and Mother Nature at her best during the winter season, it might be time to dust off your camera and capture Port Colborne's scenery, people, and activities.

The Port Colborne Economic Tourism Development Corp., is holding a winter photography contest. Submissions could be used for promotional purposes in future advertisements and on the city's website.

"With the season of snow and ice upon us, it is a time of year filled with great photo opportunities. We invite residents and visitors to share the ways winter inspires them,

by submitting their best winter photos in our contest," said Mayor Vance Badawey in a press release.

The contest runs until March 15 and photos must be submitted on CD in high resolution. There is no entry fee however, photographers of all ages and abilities can enter no more than five images.

Ideas include capturing Mother Nature and wildlife, landscapes, water and trees in a winter setting, indoor or outdoor winter events, children outdoors, and outdoor winter sports.

Contest details and entry forms are available on the city's website at [www.portcolborne.ca](http://www.portcolborne.ca). The winner will receive a \$100 gift card for a local business.

## eventbrief

### TICKETS GOING FAST FOR ROSELAWN LADIES NIGHT

**PORT COLBORNE** — The popular Ladies Night at the Roselawn Centre is returning, but interested participants must hurry to purchase tickets.

Half of the 100 tickets have already been sold for the evening event, which is to be held Thursday, Feb. 11.

For \$25, ladies will be treated to appetizers and desserts by Occasions and wine sampling from Reef Estate Wines.

The marketplace includes purses, jewellery, accessories, tarot card readings, fantasy items, mini massages, chocolate treats and specialty drinks.

The evening will be hosted by Showboat artistic director Thom Currie.

The event featured members of the fire department as servers in the past and "special" waiters may be featured again this year.

For more information or to purchase tickets call the Roselawn box office at 905-834-0833.

— InPort News Staff

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■ **BUSINESS:** Donna Martens Gamm passes presidency to Mike Sloat

# Chamber of Commerce president passes the torch

KAESHA FORAND  
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Her two-year reign as president of Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce has ended.

Donna Martens Gamm said she is proud of the growth the chamber has seen in recent years. The account executive with 91.7 Giant FM passes the presidency to Mike Sloat of @27 Restaurant, but she will continue to serve on the board as past-president.

Martens Gamm had the opportunity to reminisce recently. She was quick to point out her team effort to recruit new members and retain old ones.

Martens Gamm said making office manager Edith Wagner's position full time was one of the first positive steps taken to help the chamber branch out and grow.

During her time on the board, the chamber began sponsoring more events, including the Marshville Heritage Festival and Canal Days.

The chamber also strengthened its relations with the Rotary Club of Port Colborne Centennial, The Gateway Association, the Downtown BIA and the Tourism Development Corp.

Through collaborative efforts with neighbouring chambers, the annual Southern Tier Mayors Breakfast has grown into a well-attended event.

"My goals were to grow the organization to ensure we had a strong foundation to ensure growth," she said, noting the chamber's current membership stands at 208 members.

The increase in numbers came through membership drives, a boardroom blitz and a member's reception.

She is proud of the accomplishments on the back of two strong fiscal years of discipline without running deficits.

"I am happy with the job I did," she said. "And I definitely took something



Donna Martens Gamm is waving goodbye to her two-year role of president of Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce. The position will be filled by Mike Sloat.

KAESHA FORAND Staff Photo

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away from it — the importance of giving back. Proof being that it's left me wondering what's next."

The new chamber board is composed of Sloat, first vice-president Patti Stirling, second vice-president John Mayne and third vice-president Bob Porter.

The chamber's next event is the President's Awards reception on Wednesday, March 3, at the Roselawn Centre, where a youth, citizen and business of the year will be recognized.

kforand@wellandtribune.ca

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(back row): Laurie Huneault, Elisa Barrett, Cindy Borgatti

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## ■ sportsfest

### SPORTSFEST KICKS OFF IN PORT

**PORT COLBORNE** — There are new additions to this year's Sportsfest to encourage residents to come out of hibernation and participate in a week-end of activities.

A volleyball tournament has been added at Lakeshore Catholic High School and children and teens can take part in a ball hockey event in the Market Square on Saturday.

Allaina Kane, acting special events manager for the Port Colborne Economic and Tourism Development Corp., said activities were added to include more people.

Ball Hockey International will set up a rink at

market square. Youngsters and teens can drop by between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to face off against junior B players, Katiwimav volunteers and members of the Niagara Regional Police. It's free for all to play.

Former Chicago Blackhawks left winger Dennis Hull will entertain guests at the Rosestein Centre during the celebrity evening. Tickets are still available for \$20 for adults and \$12.50 for youth under the age of 15. Doors open at 7 p.m. and Hull will take the stage from 8 to about 9 p.m. with master of ceremonies Mark Hebscher.

Snow golf will be held at Whisky Run — an event that has been held since Sportsfest kicked off 11 years ago.

Kane said about 100 participants will take to Port Colborne's trails for the first Frobitable Mountain bike race organized by the Shortfalls Cycling Club.

Hockey teams will compete for the Mayor's Cup. Fourteen teams from across Niagara and as far as Brampton, Halton and West Lincoln will compete at the city's two arenas.

**Saturday, Feb. 6:**

- A volleyball tournament will be held at Lakeshore Catholic High School Saturday and Sunday for \$150 per team. Call Peter Leavere at 905-714-6235 to register. Home base will be the Furby Monkey on Main St.
- Free public swimming at Centennial Pool, 124 Janet St., from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

- The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 56 is holding a dirt tournament.

ment: registration 12-30 p.m. for mixed teams of two men and two women; \$25 per team. Call 905-834-9512.

- Whisky Run presents its 11th annual Snow Golf Tournament at noon. For \$20 per person, bring your own tennis ball and have some winter fun on the course. Call Lou at 905-835-6864.

- Club Frontenac presents a Texas Hold'em tournament at the Lions Club Hall, 40 Chippewa Rd. Registration is at 6:30 p.m. First deal at 7 p.m. It's \$25 per person. Call Yves at 905-834-6884.

**Sunday, Feb. 7:**

- Shortfalls Cycling club is holding The Frobitable Mountain Bike Race in the Robinhood Lands from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. New this year is an all-weather mountain bike race. Register for \$30 until Feb. 5 at noon. The event will be an individual time trial event based on the best lap time of two laps for the 10- or 20-km course. The course goes through the Robinhood lands. Visit [frobitable.com](http://frobitable.com).

- The Port Colborne and District Conservation Club presents a trap and skeet shoot from their clubhouse at 3757 Second Concession from 1 to 5 p.m. Contact Chris at 905-834-1617.
- The Canislate Pub and Eatery is holding a soup cook off from 1 to 4 p.m. Enter your favourite soup or come out to try a variety of soups.

- A free skate will be held at the Westside Arena from 3 to 4:20 p.m.

The majority of events require pre-registration and it's advised to call the organizers for additional details. The Sportsfest brochure is also available on the city's website at [portcolborne.ca](http://portcolborne.ca).

## ■ library

### EVENTS AT THE WAINFLEET LIBRARY

**WAINFLEET** — The following events are available at the Wainfleet Public Library. To book an appointment or to register for an event, call 905-899-1277.

**Ongoing:** Computer workshops and one-on-one training are available at the Wainfleet Township Public Library Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

**Wednesday, Feb. 10, 12, March 3 and 10:** Forest of Reading — Silver Birch Book Club for Grades 3 to 6 at the library from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Join this after-school book club to read some great Canadian books. Vote for which book should win with kids from all across Ontario. There will also be snacks, games and activities.

**Thursday, Feb. 11 and 18:** Preschool story time for ages two to five at the Wainfleet Township Public Library. A six-week program of stories, songs, activities and crafts. Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Each child must be accompanied by their parent/caregiver. This session's theme is winter wonderland at the library. New session starts Feb. 25.

**Fridays, February 5, 12, 19, March 5 and 12:** Forest of Reading — Blue Spruce Book Club for Kindergarten to Grade 2 at the Wainfleet Township Public Library from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Join this after-school book club to read some great Canadian books. Vote for which book should win with kids from all across Ontario. There will also be snacks, games and activities. Call 905-899-1277 to pre-register your attendance.

**Wednesday, Feb. 10:** Stay, Read from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Children can practice their reading skills by bringing a book to read to St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog.

**Thursday, Feb. 11:** Philanthropy's Café at the library at 6:30 p.m. Drop by for refreshments and a lively discussion. This month's topic of discussion is responsibility. All welcome. No philosophy training required, real life experience desired.

**Monday, Feb. 15:** Family Olympics from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. All ages can show their Olympic spirit by participating in fun family activities. This event will be held at the Wainfleet Firefighters' Memorial Community Hall. No fee. Please call to pre-register by Feb. 11.

**Monday, Feb. 15:** Family Wii Night from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. In celebration of Family Day, all ages are invited to drop in and play Nintendo Wii. Not only great family fun, but great exercise too.

**Thursday, Feb. 18:** E-mail basics from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Learn how to send and receive e-mail. Some basic computer knowledge required. Cost \$10. Please call to pre-register as space is limited.

**Monday, Feb. 22:** Book club meets this month's selection is *Living Frank* by Nancy Horan. To obtain a copy of the book, please call to register as a book club member.

**Wednesday, Feb. 24:** Wii for Adults from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Wii is not just for kids. Enjoy exciting Nintendo Wii games, including Wii Fit. Great for some light exercise and lots of fun. No prior experience required; you will be taught how to play.



## THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET

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- Fenceview - 3 positions available
- Playground Site Selection Committee (PSSC)
- 2 positions available

Interested residents may submit their application to Tanya Lamb, Township Clerk. Application forms may be downloaded from the Township's Web Site ([www.township.wainfleet.com](http://www.township.wainfleet.com)) or by picking a form up from the Township Office during regular business hours (9:30 am to 4:30 pm).

Completed application forms may be dropped off at Township Office, mailed, emailed ([tamb@township.wainfleet.on.ca](mailto:tamb@township.wainfleet.on.ca)) or faxed (Attention Tanya Lamb at 905-899-2340), by no later than Friday, February 12th, 2010.

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Township of Wainfleet  
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## ■ ARCHAEOLOGY

## Region seeks public input into Lakeshore Rd. Assessment

InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — As studies continue with the Wainfleet Water and Sewer project, the region is seeking input into an archaeological assessment that was recently completed.

Mary Lou Tanner, manager, water and wastewater for Niagara Region Public Works said she is accepting written public input and tidbits of knowledge about the Lakeshore Rd. area until March 9.

The assessment was created with archaeologists, historical maps and historians to outline Lakeshore Rd.'s archaeological and land use history.

A number of historic features including cemeteries and first nations sites will be examined through sonar and possibly excavation.

"This is a draft because things could change based on information we receive."

"Historic cemeteries require particular attention during an archaeological assessment if impact is anticipated in the vicinity," the report stated of the Oakwood, Morgan's Point and Gravel Cemeteries which are all within the construction area.

Tanner said a third stage of the assessment — to be done during the spring for about three days — will look specifically at cemeteries.

People interested in commenting on the report can view a copy on the Niagara Region's website at [www.niagararegion.ca](http://www.niagararegion.ca), or by visiting the Township of Wainfleet municipal offices or Niagara Region headquarters' clerk's department.

Public comments must be submitted, in writing, by mail to Mary Lou Tanner, 3501 Schmon Parkway, P.O. Box 1042, Thorold, Ont., L2V 4T7; by fax, 905-685-3205; or by e-mail to [marylou.tanner@niagararegion.ca](mailto:marylou.tanner@niagararegion.ca).

## ■ wainfleet

### REPAIRS ARE ON THE HORIZON FOR MISENER RD. BRIDGE

WAINFLEET — The federal and provincial governments are coming to the aid of another Wainfleet bridge.

During Tuesday night's council meeting, Mayor Barb Henderson announced the township has received

another \$200,000 in infrastructure funding for the repair of Misener Rd. bridge.

The project is expected to begin on March 8 and must be open to two-lane traffic by Nov. 5.

— InPort News Staff

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## ■ along the lakeshore

Feb. 5

A fundraising concert will be presented by the Lakeshore Catholic High School music department featuring the British Invasion Band at 7 p.m. in the LCHS auditorium. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door or by contacting the school at 905-835-2451. Funds raised will go towards scholarships, bursaries and new instruments for the music department.

Feb. 7

The Choralis Camerata presents the gospel train revolution evolution — a concert celebrating Black History Month and a progression

of gospel music over the last two centuries. The event will be held at 2:30 p.m. at St. John's United Church, 14789 Sodom Rd. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$5 for students. They are available for purchase at the door or by calling 905-646-9225.

Feb. 8

The Port Colborne Historical Society will meet at the Port Village Retirement Home at 7 p.m. for a members' show and tell. Call 905-835-2291 for more information.

Feb. 11

The Roselawn Centre is holding its second annual Ladies Night Out. Join in on a night of fabulous friends, fantastic vendors and fine food and wine at 7:30. Tickets are \$25 and include appetizers, desserts and wine sampling. The market place will include purses, jewelry, tarot card reading, mini massages, chooco-

late treats, specialty drinks and more. For more information or to purchase tickets call 905-834-0833.

Feb. 13

The Presbyterian Women in are hosting a Fifth Avenue Jewelry Party from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church corner of Elm and Charlotte Sts. Port Colborne. Free admission, light refreshment served. Call 835-2291 for more information.

Ongoing

• The 79 Lynton Davies Air Cadet Squadron meets every Tuesday at St. Peters Lutheran Church, 200 Erie St., Port Colborne, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Interested persons should contact captain John Derouise at 905-227-7609.

• Kids zone for children age six to 12 run every Monday and Friday from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the centre for Community Living, 100 McRae Ave. The program runs until June 18 for a \$5 registration fee. Free transportation available. Call 905-835-8941 ext. 135. All events are supervised by adults.

Library activities

• Adult Knitting classes with Vicki Fretz, held Tuesday evenings 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. will continue to April 20. The Thursday afternoon classes from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. go to March 11, then begin again on March 25 to April 22. To join the knitters club call Vicki at 905-835-5373.

See **ALONG THE LAKESHORE** Page 11



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## localbrief

## WORKSHOP TO HELP SMOKERS KICK THE HABIT

PORT COLBORNE — Thinking about quitting smoking?

Bridges Community Health Centre is hosting a you can quit workshop on Wednesday, Feb. 10 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Port Colborne Hospital, McKellar Hall.

Guest facilitator Dornie Edwards, owner/pharmacist of Ridgeway IDA, will discuss the challenges of nicotine addiction, tips for creating a successful quit smoking plan, and options for nicotine replacement therapy.

"This workshop is a great way to kick start your efforts to quit smoking for good," said Lori Kleinsmith, a health promoter at Bridges CHC.

"Breaking the tobacco habit is very difficult and can often take several tries and various strategies before success is permanent. Dornie is very knowledgeable in the area of smoking cessation and will provide workshop participants with some great ideas and information."

Bridges CHC is offering this workshop free of charge.

For information or to register your spot, please call Bridges at 289-479-5017.

— InPort News Staff

## along the lakeshore

FROM PAGE 10

## Library activities

• Tai Chi Can: Improve your health, well-being, balance and breathing. Mondays 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the auditorium. Call 905-321-9536 for more information.

• Express Writers: Writer's Support Group with facilitators Gary and Kitty Roy, Thursdays 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Practical advice on getting published, finding a literary agent and copyrights. For more information contact the facilitators by e-mail at groy10@cokeco.ca, or call the library at 905-634-6512.

• Films for seniors presented the first Wednesday of the month until May 1:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Free admission and refreshments.

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■ **COUNCIL:** City sinks recommendation to extend sale agreement

# Property sale with Nyon derailed

MARK TAYTI  
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Marine vessels sailing through this lakeside community in the foreseeable future better not be coming for fuel.

A report Monday Jan. 25 revealed that Nyon Marine Fuelling Corp. is still haggling with St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. (SLSMC) over docking issues. At issue is a \$1.6-million upgrade along the seaway's canal wall.

The news had several council members questioning whether to approve a recommendation to extend "a sales and purchase agreement" between Nyon and the city for land that Nyon requires to extend a rail link onto its King St. property.

The sales agreement was initially signed by the city on Jan. 27, 2009, and has since been extended five times.

On Monday, council was asked to consider extending the sales agreement, once more, until January 2011.

That's when the land deal went off the rails.

Ward 2 Coun. Frank DiBartolomeo was first to weigh in on the lengthy delay.

"I'm opposed to the extension," DiBartolomeo said.

"Every day this is delayed, it's affecting our local economy."

City manager Bob Heil said Nyon was sincere about closing the land deal with the city and it was only the ongoing negotiations with SLSMC that was stalling the transaction.

DiBartolomeo said he was "disappointed" with the lack of progress being made to re-establish a fuel dock in Port Colborne.

In December 2005, council recommended the city enter into an agreement with Canada Lands to purchase eight properties that it was currently leasing, one of which was the fuel dock operated by Shell Canada.

Early in 2006, a report came to council that identified the terms of agreement to sell the acquired property associated with the fuel dock to Nyon Marine Fuelling Corp.

Shell Canada stopped operating the fuel dock at the end of July 2007 and decommissioned the Frank St. site — removing all tanks and infrastructure.

Ward 1 Coun. David Barrick questioned

**Every day this is delayed, it's affecting our local economy.**

Frank DiBartolomeo, Ward 2 councillor

why there had already been five extensions given to Nyon for the purchase of the city-owned property.

Heil said the small property would provide Nyon with the ability to carry fuel to its site by rail. He said disallowing the sale would mean Nyon would have to service the site by truck.

"If the extension is not granted, the deal stops," Heil said.

Barrick said the city has gone "beyond our obligation" where the sale is concerned.

"Ultimately, my concern is with the development delay of 12 months," Barrick added.

Heil said the city could extend the agreement for six months, but it will likely take longer for Nyon to resolve its issues with the seaway corporation.

Heil said Nyon has never been given any

guarantees with regard to purchasing the city-owned land. He said the pie-shaped property has very little commercial value.

Heil also stressed that Nyon owns the former fuel dock and not selling them the land changes little in its negotiations with SLSMC.

"(The city land) is only for railway access," Heil said.

Ward 1 Coun. Bill Steele recommended the city pull its agreement "off the table at this time."

Steele said there is nothing to prevent Nyon from coming back to the city once it has resolved all its other docking and easement issues with the seaway.

The recommendation to extend the sale agreement to January 2011 was defeated.

Steele's recommendation was approved in a 4-3 vote.

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■ SPORTS: Pirates need more fans

# Port's junior B hockey on thin ice

JOHN VESSOYAN  
InPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — The man who runs the Port Colborne Pirates believes his team is always playing short-handed off the ice.

When team owner and general manager Tim Toffolo takes a glance at the seats inside Westside Arena during Pirates home games, he tries not to look away because it's not a pretty sight.

The Pirates continue to struggle with attracting hockey fans to their games on Friday nights. And with the crowds getting smaller and smaller, there's a threat that the city might one day be without a junior B hockey franchise.

Toffolo needs about 400 fans to attend every home game — that's 200 more than the Pirates are currently drawing.

"Without 400 people a game we're not going to be able to run a franchise here in Port Colborne," Toffolo said. Toffolo's message to the people of Port Colborne is simple and blunt.

"If you want Port Colborne to keep on growing and keep on prospering, if you don't want it to go backwards, if you want it to go backwards I guess your choice is not to

**We want to be here, we don't want to be anywhere else, we want to be here in Port Colborne, but it's up to the community now.**

*Tim Toffolo, Pirates owner/general manager*

come out," he said.

"If you want Port Colborne to move forward and if you want there to be something here for the kids, something here for people to watch, then you've got to come out and support us."

"We're playing good hockey right now, we've beat a lot of the top teams and unfortunately the fans aren't coming out to watch and they're missing a good brand of hockey for a good dollar."

Toffolo doesn't want the Pirates to leave this city, saying he'll do everything he can to keep the team here.

"We want to be here, we don't want to be anywhere else, we want to be here in Port Colborne, but it's up to the community now."

Selling the entire team to another person or group isn't an option for the current owner. But Toffolo is attempting to sell 45% of the organization.

He's looking for a group of people to come forward and assist with the operations while he continues to be the majority owner.

If he fails to secure a business partner, relocation will be considered. Toffolo said he'd be open to moving the team to another city or town in Niagara or even outside of the region up to a 100 miles away.

Niagara-on-the-Lake and Pelham are two centres in Niagara that don't have junior B teams.

Clive Bulst, parks and recreations director in NOTL, said

there isn't enough ice time to accommodate a junior B club. But the facilities they have could house a team as the Meridian Credit Union Arena can seat up to 500 people.

Pelham's manager of community services, Vickie vanRenswou, said the town also doesn't have the necessary ice time available, nor doesn't have the adequate facility.

Toffolo's expenses each year are about \$115,000, which includes about \$24,000 for ice time and \$9,000 for referees. Annually, sponsors give the Pirates about 19,000 and ticket sales amount to \$36,000. The biggest hit the team took was a few years ago when they lost bingo revenues which were amounted to \$12,000 a year.

"When you're losing that kind of money, you've got to make it up in other ways," he said.

"When you're fortunate to have those things, it's great. But when you lose those things and they're not around and there's no other way to bring that money back in, then you have to rely on the community and you have to rely on the fans."

The Pirates are near the bottom of the eight-team Golden Horseshoe Conference, but Toffolo doesn't believe fans are staying away because of their standing. He said more fans, means more money which translates into a better product on the ice.

"If the people come out and support the team and the money is there, you get a better team because you have more money to give to kids for education packages, give the kids some of the equipment they want and provide for them better," he said.

"That's how you get kids to stay here and want to play here."

Regional Coun. Bob Saracino, who was the general manager of Port Colborne's junior B team in the 1970s, said it's the same old story in Port Colborne — attendance problems aren't new.

"We had a difficult time with attendance too," Saracino said.

What's the solution?

"It's hard to say. Perhaps get out in the community more," Saracino answered.

"The passion is here. Port Colborne is a hockey town."

*jvessoyan@weellandtribune.ca*

**The passion is here. Port Colborne is a hockey town.**

*Bob Saracino, Regional Councillor*

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FROM PAGE 2

Elliott is currently overseeing the company in a director of business development role but continues to be passionate about their cutting-edge technology.

He is most proud of the alkaline battery process which sees batteries transformed into micro-nutrients to be used in the fertilizer industry.

"One year into the process it's working well and growing," he said.

"Twenty years ago, he began lobbying to keep batteries out of landfills. For every battery the company receives, 86% is recy-

clad and the remaining 12% to 14% is paper or plastic which is sent off and burned to create energy.

Although batteries are considered to be a fraction of the percentage of waste in landfills, Elliott said they account or 90% of heavy metals in landfills.

"It's important we're keeping these things out."

The recycling process goes as far as using cobalt, lithium and nickel from recycled batteries to create blue, silver and green paint.

Elliott's company also breaks down old ships and recycles a large portion of its

components including metals, batteries and PVC pipes, and cuts down steel to be melted. Recycling capabilities also include light tubes, dental amalgam and some electronics.

In an average year, RMC recycles about 6,000 tons of alkaline batteries and diverts about 100,000 tons in total of waste or secondary materials annually.

The problem is, the average household generates two pounds of batteries annually, which Niagara has helped to divert with its battery recycling drop off bins at local landfills.

"It's disturbing to me to see how much is

landfilled," he said, noting his fear of numerous chemicals that power batteries will leach through to ground water.

RMC is unique. There are only two comparable facilities in Europe which recycle less than 50% of the battery and leave a larger carbon footprint.

The entrepreneur of the year award nomination in technical innovation is a first for Elliott, and he said it would be nice to receive the award.

The awards will be handed out on Friday, Feb. 26 at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel and Conference Centre in Niagara Falls.

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■ BY GEORGE

## SoupsOn! stirs up another successful fundraiser

FROM PAGE 19

Vincent assured her he wanted her honesty, her true thoughts. So they went their separate ways and he ended up sending her some of the short stories that eventually helped make up *Bloodletting*.

Weeks went by and the day finally came when Vincent went to check his e-mails and saw one from Atwood. He nervously opened it. All it said, in capital letters, was: "congratulations you can write."

I picked up a copy of *Bloodletting* before leaving Rose-lawn last Thursday evening and I've read a couple of stories in it. I would heartily recommend it.

\*\*\*

Our golden retriever Bud has been gone for about six weeks now, but there are still moments when I'm the first one home from work and I walk up from the lower level expecting to see him waiting at the top of the stairs. In his final couple of years, he simply couldn't navigate the steps anymore and lived in our home's upper level.

Our walks over the final months had become shorter and shorter. Bud would have been 15 last week.

This past weekend, we had the joyful opportunity to have Nate come and stay with us for a couple of days.

Nate is a four-year-old Rhodesian ridgeback with some boxer in him. He is a gorgeous dog with a personality to match his physical beauty.

Last Friday evening, Nate and I went out for an hour-and-a-half walk around town. I hadn't done that with a dog in about two to three years. It was so much fun.

Then, on Saturday morning, we went out again, this time to the beach on the west end of Gravelly Bay, where we proceeded to walk halfway to Morgan's Point.

Nate bounded up and down the beach off-leash as we

had the whole place to ourselves. It was just a joy to once again see a dog enjoy himself with unbridled enthusiasm.

It also made me realize just how difficult those final months must have been for our Bud.

We look forward to having Nate stay with us in the future.

\*\*\*

Last Friday marked what has become in our social calendar the lunch date of the year.

The folks who put together SoupsOn! at St. Kevin's Church in Welland staged their annual event to raise funds for the church's Social Justice Scholarship Committee.

The scholarship grants go to deserving students who are graduating Grade 12 and will study issues related to social justice causes.

The convener of the annual event for the past eight years is my close friend and former colleague, Joe Barkovich, *The Tribune's* city editor. He is also chair of the Social Justice Scholarship Committee.

Joe is a remarkable man. He is humility personified and, in fact, will likely be upset that I'm even writing about him here.

I won't go on and on because that would just embarrass him. I will, however, say Joe cares deeply, passionately about social justice issues and the whole idea of SoupsOn! was his baby years ago. Basically, it brings together various organizations that volunteer their time, efforts and soup to offer up an amazing lunch on a late-January winter day.

This year's luncheon featured mouth-watering efforts by students from Niagara College's Niagara Culinary Institute, and high schools that included Confederation, Blessed Trinity and Notre Dame.

Over the years, the event has raised more than \$12,000 in



GEORGE DUMA inPort News Photo

Former Niagara College Culinary Institute students, Jason Teixeira, left, and Rob Tapp, right, join chef professor Bob Demers at SoupsOn! last Friday.

scholarship money. Pretty impressive, isn't it?

And just when you think it's as good as it can be, it gets better. Small wonder each year is a sellout and tickets must be bought in advance, weeks even, before the actual event.

This year, my favourites were the lobster bisque, the borscht and a Moroccan chorba lamb soup that was incredible. But they were all good, all 10 offerings. Kudos to all involved with SoupsOn! but especially to my buddy, Joe. I just have so much respect and admiration for him.

George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He is currently a member of the journalism faculty at Niagara College. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at gduma@cogeco.ca.

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